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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 17, 136, 344, 427, 632

we deal with what was LB 136 by Senator Nancy Thompson. LB 136, the provisions of LB 136, allows the Legislature to find that elemental mercury found in liquid mercury thermometers is a persistent and toxic pollutant. Mercury can enter the environment, resulting in human exposure, due to accidental spills, breakage, and releases. The intent is to ban the sale and distribution of liquid mercury thermometers to prevent further accidental exposure. The sale and distribution of liquid mercury thermometers containing elemental mercury is prohibited by the provisions of the bill. Next, at Section 5, we would turn to LB 632. LB 632 was introduced by Senator Marian Price. It provides that a person, other than an animal control facility or animal shelter, who sells a cat or dog under six weeks of age is guilty of a Class V misdemeanor. A Class V misdemeanor is punishable by up to \$100 fine. At Section 6 we have inserted what was LB 344 by Senator Matt Connealy. LB 344 criminalizes knowingly installing or reinstalling in a vehicle anything other than an air bag designed for the make, model and year of motor vehicle involved as part of such vehicle's inflatable restraint system. The offense is classified as a Class I misdemeanor. It's punishable by up to one year in prison, or \$1,000 fine, or both. At Sections 7 and 8 we have utilized LB 427, introduced by Senator Mark Quandahl, which amends the existing statutes pertaining to forgery in the second degree and criminal possession of a forged instrument. The value threshold for increased penalty classifications is raised. Specifically, the forged instrument's face value for forgery in the second degree is amended as follows. A Class III felony, \$300 or more, is changed to \$1,000 or more. This all reflects the marketplace and the economics in which we live. A Class IV felony, which was over \$75 but less than \$300, is changed to over \$300 but less than \$1,000; and a Class I misdemeanor would be \$75 or less, being changed to provide \$300 or less. The forged instrument's value under criminal possession of a forged instrument, second-degree forgery, is amended as follows. The Class IV felony level, \$300 or more, is changed to \$1,000 or more. The Class I misdemeanor level, more than \$75 but less than \$300, is changed to more than \$300 but less than \$1,000. And the Class II misdemeanor, \$75 or less, is changed to \$300 or less. All of those classifications reflect the testimony of what has happened with regard to the value of goods. This bill